(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Central Government that the Chief Minister of Maharashtra has estimated the cost of rehabilitation of earthquake affected people which struck Maharashtra recently, to the tune of Rs. 900 crores; and

(b) if so, in what manner Government propose to help the State to meet this huge cost of rehabilitation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) The Government of Maharasntra have prepared a proposal for tre Earthquake Rehabilitation Programme with an estimated cost of Rs. 1088.6 crores in the sectors of housing and infrastructure, economic and social rehabilitation and other related programmes.

(b) A World Bank loan assistance is being negotiated to finance the rehabilitation programme.

Visit of Central team to Maharashtra to assess earthquake losses

2085. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Central Team had been sent to Maharashtra to asses the earthquake loss in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the composition of the Central Team;

(c) what was the assessment about the loss made by this Team; and

(d) how Government propose to deal with this expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) A Central Team was deputed to Maharashtra to assess the extent of demage and the requirement of relief and rehabilitation in the wake of earthquake in Maharashtra.

(b) The Team was led by the Central Relief Commissioner in the Ministry of Agricultural and consisted of representatives from the Minitries/Departments of Urban Development, Rural Development, Welfare, Women and Child Development, Surface Transport, Science and Technology and Health and Family Welfare.

(c) As the Central Team's visit was soon after the concurrence of calamity and the entire State machinery was too deeply involved in relief operations, no reliable estimate of damages could be made at that point of time.

Subsequently, Maharashtra Government has prepared an Earthquake Rehabilitation Programme for being posed to the World Bank in which, the loss of property as a result of earthquake has been estimated at about Rs. 300 crores.

(d) A World Bank loan assistance is being negotiated in order to finance the rehabilitation programmes in the affected areas involving housing and infra structure, economic and social rehabilitation and related sector.

Loss due to rain in Pondicherry

2086. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the recent report in a section of the Press that heavy rains claimed many lives and damaged properties in Pondicherry;

(b) if so, the names of districts that had been affected by heavy rains causing destruction to properties and heavy loss of lives to poor people;

(c) the steps taken by Government to rehabilitates the affected people to safer places; and

(d) the compensation, if any, paid to the people who lost their properties?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) Pondicherry and Karaikal regions of the Union Territory of Pondicherry